AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1.   (currently amended) A method for automatically generating current distribution order data with the inclusion of central address directories, which are stored in databases and are transmitted by electronic data transfer, as distribution order data, ~~having the following steps~~comprising the steps of:

-    locally copying the ~~a~~ current central address directory or ~~the~~ parts relating to ~~the~~ a relevant area ~~is/are copied locally~~,

-    ~~locally stored~~ storing change instructions regarding a relative positional change for delivery points in the distribution order for ~~the~~ a previous version of the central address directory or of the ~~relevant~~ parts, ~~(the delivery points being identified on the basis of identification data containing at least the sorting code)~~

-    ~~are transferred~~transferring the change instructions to the local copy of the current central address directory or ~~of the relevant~~ parts,

-    performing a check ~~is carried out~~so as to determine whether the change instructions have already been implemented in the ~~copied~~ current address directory or whether ~~they~~ the instructions are yet to be executed,

-    ~~the~~ storing valid change instructions yet to be executed ~~are stored~~ in an audit file, and

-    executing the change instructions ~~are executed~~.

2.   (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein the identification data additionally and locally incorporates house number extensions ~~locally~~.

3.   (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, wherein the identification data additionally and locally incorporates distinguishing remarks ~~locally~~.

4.   (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of ~~where~~ incorporating forwarding and/or distribution advice ~~is incorporated~~ into the copied address directory by ~~carrying out~~ performing the following steps:

- performing a check ~~is carried out so as~~ to determine whether the delivery point for the respective forwarding and/or distribution advice exists in the copied current address directory for the distribution order data, and if so,

- adding ~~the~~ new forwarding and/or distribution advice ~~is added~~ to the copied address directory, with ~~the~~ the new forwarding and/or distribution advice having priority over ~~the~~ the old forwarding and/or distribution advice of ~~the~~ a same type, and

- incorporating ~~the~~ a complete change data for the forwarding and/or distribution advice ~~are incorporated~~ into the audit file.

5.   (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- updating ~~where~~ the central address directory or address directory parts ~~is/are updated~~ by transmitting only incremental changes by data transfer, the changes being ~~which are~~ merged with the previously current and copied address directory or address directory part by using the identification data for each delivery point to check in the previously current address directory or address directory part whether the respective delivery point in the incremental change is already present, and if not, ~~it is incorporated~~ incorporating into the copied address directory or address directory part at the concomitantly transmitted position of the distribution order, and if so, moving the respective delivery point ~~is moved~~ to the changed position in the address directory.

6.   (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 5, wherein the move of a delivery point is implemented by deleting said delivery point at the previous position of the address directory and re-entering it at the changed position.

7.   (new) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying delivery points according to identification data comprising at least the sorting code.